

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A water-soluble resin comprising:

a structure corresponding to a copolymer of a monomer mixture containing a vinylic monomer (A) having a hydroxyl group and an amido bond, and a vinylic monomer (B) having a cationic group,

wherein the vinylic monomer (A) is represented by a formula, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^1)\text{-CO-NR}^2\text{-(CH}_2)_a\text{-OH}$, where R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a is 2, [[and]] the vinylic monomer (B) is represented by a formula, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^3)\text{-CO(O)}_b\text{-(NH)}_{1-b}\text{-(CH}_2)_c\text{-N}^+\text{R}^4\text{R}^5\text{R}^6\text{X}^-$, where R^3 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^4 and R^5 each independently represent an alkyl group or an aryl group or an aralkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, R^6 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group or an aralkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, or $\text{CH}_2\text{-CH(OH)-CH}_2\text{-N}^+\text{R}^7\text{R}^8\text{R}^9\text{Y}^-$, R^7 to R^9 each independently represent an alkyl group or an aryl group or an aralkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, X^- and Y^- each independently represent an anion, b represents 0 or 1, and c represents an integer from 1 to 10, and the monomer mixture contains 20 to 90% by weight of the vinylic monomer (A) and 10 to 80% by weight of the vinylic monomer (B).

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein the vinylic monomer (A) having a hydroxyl group and an amido bond is hydroxyethyl acrylamide, or hydroxyethyl methacrylamide.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein the vinylic monomer (B) having a cationic group is at least one selected from the group

consisting of meth acroyloxyethyl-trimethylammonium chloride, acrylaminoethyl-trimethylammonium chloride, and meth acrylaminoethyl-trimethylammonium chloride.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein weight average molecular weight is 5,000 to 5,000,000.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein the water soluble-resin can form an aqueous solution having a concentration of at least 5% by weight.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein the vinylic monomer (A) having a hydroxyl group and an amido bond is hydroxyethyl acrylamide, and the vinylic monomer (B) having a cationic group is at least one selected from the group consisting of (meth)acroyloxyethyltrimethylammonium chloride, acrylaminoethyltrimethylammonium chloride, and (meth)acrylaminoethyltrimethylammonium chloride.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A hair cosmetic material containing the water-soluble resin of claim 1.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The hair cosmetic material of claim 11, further containing an anionic surfactant.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The hair cosmetic material of claim 12, which is an aqueous solution containing 0.05 to 5% by weight of the water-soluble resin and 5 to 40% by weight of the anionic surfactant.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A silicone oil adsorption assistant comprising the water-soluble resin of claim 1.

Claims 15-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises from 20 to 90% by weight of the structural unit corresponding to the vinylic monomer (A) having a hydroxyl group and an amido bond.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R^2 in the formula, $CH_2=C(R^1)-CO-NR^2-(CH_2)_a-OH$, is a hydrogen atom.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The water-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R^4 and R^5 in the formula, $CH_2=C(R^3)-CO(O)_b-(NH)_{1-b}-(CH_2)_c-N^+R^4R^5R^6\cdot X^-$, are each independently a methyl group or an ethyl group, and R^6 in the formula, $CH_2=C(R^3)-CO(O)_b-(NH)_{1-b}-(CH_2)_c-N^+R^4R^5R^6\cdot X^-$, is a methyl group, an ethyl group or a butyl group.